

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FAA-00 CAB-02 DOTE-00 /103 W
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R 160730Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6411

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BG, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS 1975 BILATERAL FINANCIAL AID AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

1. DUTCH BILATERAL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
COMMITMENTS TO BANGLADESH FOR 1975 AMOUNT TO 50 MILLION
GUILDERS (ABOUT \$20 MILLION). THIS LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE
WAS ANNOUNCED DURING THE JANUARY, 1975 VISIT TO DACCA
OF THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; DETAILED AGREE-
MENT WAS REACHED IN DACCA APRIL 4 AT THE CONCLUSION
OF A ONE-WEEK VISIT OF A FOUR-MAN DUTCH MISSION, LED
BY AMBASSADOR DR. F. VAN DONGEN (RESIDENT IN BANGKOK).
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE DUTCH
CHARGE (BROUWER).

2. THE ASSISTANCE IS TWICE THAT OF 1974, FOR THE
FIRST TIME UNTIED (FOR PURCHASE FROM LDC'S), AND ON
SOFTER TERMS NOW SIMILAR TO IDA LOAN TERMS. THE 50
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MILLION GUILDER FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

- A. 35 MILLION GRANT; 15 MILLION LOAN;
- B. 38 MILLION FINANCIAL; 12 MILLION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE;
- C. OF THE FINANCIAL AID 8 MILLION IS PROJECT AND 30 MILLION NON-PROJECT ASSISTANCE;
- D. THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS ALL GRANT AID; THE 15 MILLION GUILDER LOAN IS ENTIRELY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THE STATUS OF ONGOING PROJECTS FINANCED FROM 1974 FUNDS (E.G. FARIDPUR SUGAR MILLS; INLAND WATERWAYS TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION DREDGER TEAM; CRANES FOR CHITTAGONG PORT), THE TEAM AGREED WITH BDG OFFICIALS ON THE USE OF 1975 FINANCIAL AID. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ARE GRANTS OF 10 MILLION GUILDER FOR IMPORTS OF EDIBLE OIL AND 5 MILLION FOR POTATO SEEDS (THE BDG HAS ALSO REQUESTED EDIBLE OIL AS PART OF A POSSIBLE US FY 76 PL-480 PROGRAM). THESE GRANTS ARE FLEXIBLE AND THE FUNDS MAY BE REPROGRAMMED.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE MOST IMPORTANT USES OF FY 1975 TA FUNDS ARE:

- A. TEN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS - 7 MILLION GUILDERS
- B. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR (TRAINING OF PERSONNEL) FOR BANGLADESH BIMAN FOKKER FRIENDSHIP AIRCRAFT - 2 MILLION GUILDERS
- C. POTATO RESEARCH STATION - MILLION GUILDERS.

OTHER TA PROJECTS INCLUDE:

LAND RECLAMATION;
SEMINAR ON FLOOD CONTROL PROBLEMS;
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN WATER MANAGEMENT AND WATERHBALANCE;
CHITTAGONG PORT ENTRANCE;
INVESTIGATION OF SILTING AT GANGES-KOBADEK PUMP
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HOUSE.

5. BROUWER NOTED THAT IN TA DISCUSSIONS, BDG OFFICIALS FOCUSSED ON A 800,000 GUILDER KURMITOLA AIRPORT STUDY FROM THE 1974 PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO BROUWER, BDG PARTICULARLY KEEN TO COMPLETE THIS PRESTIGIOUS NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT OUTSIDE DACCA.

6. IN ADDITION TO ANNUAL PROGAMS OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NETHERLANDS CONRIBUTES FOOD

AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH. FOR 1975,
NETHERLANDS IS TO PROVIDE ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF 150,000
MT FOODGRAINS UNDER EEC PLUS 6,000 MT FOOD THROUGH
WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

7. TOTAL DUTCH BILATERAL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID
TO BANGLADESH FRM INDEPENDENCE THROUGH 1974 TOTALLED
64 MILLION GUILDERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA01842
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750133-0620
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750443/aaaabnsl.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECT: NETHERLANDS 1975 BILATERAL FINANCIAL AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TAGS: EAID, BG, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006